

24th August 1925]

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"My own information is that the area under such (jute) cultivation is very small. But if the hon. Member would give me facts and figures, I shall go into them."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state approximately the area under jute cultivation at present?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"It is so small that I did not care to get the information."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I would request my hon. Friend the Minister to investigate the subject. We are not able to give the exact figures, and they are not readily available to us."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Is it not a fact that there is a very great decline in the produce of jute since 20 years ago, when it was extensively cultivated? I believe that since there has been a decline. Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state the main causes for this decline?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"First I must verify the facts, and then I shall make enquiries."

Manufacture of malted food from cholam.

* 351 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether, in view of the subsequent improvement in the financial position of the Presidency, the Government propose to undertake the manufacture of the malted food from cholam on a commercial basis; and

(b) whether they have published the Agricultural Chemist's report of his experiments on the malting of large quantities of cholam for general information?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Yes; copies can be had from the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to clause (a), I wanted to know whether the Government propose to undertake the manufacture of malted food from cholam on a commercial basis, but the Government say 'No'. I wish to know whether it is because the Government think that there has been no improvement in the financial position or whether they consider that it is impossible to manufacture it on a commercial basis, or for what other reason?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"It has been manufactured as a process in the chemical art, and it has also been demonstrated that it could be manufactured on a commercial basis. But the real question is whether any large section of the Indian population will take to the use of malted foods. If the Government are assured on that point, they will take the necessary steps. Already my hon. Friends know that in a similar venture, the information that we already have is not sufficient to show that the people as a class are willing to take to these fruit jams and fruit preserves. Therefore

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I wish to know for certain whether there is a demand. If information is forthcoming that it would be largely patronised, we will take the necessary steps."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"The hon. the Minister may be pleased to give us an idea of the quantities of such foods now imported into our province."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"I shall find out."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister to find out whether large quantities of these foods and preparations are being imported into the country every year?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"That was what Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar asked, and I will make inquiries."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"As regards the unwillingness on the part of the Madras public to patronize jams and fruits. . . ."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"No question of unwillingness, but the inability to find statistics."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Is the hon. the Minister aware that the state of affairs is due to the fact that the jams and fruits in the Government factory are sold at higher prices than those at which first rate imported jams are available in the Madras market?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"Yes, the prices are slightly higher."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Is that not sufficient reason for people not patronizing these jams, *Shiracha* in this poor country?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"I do not know that."

Co-operative Societies.

Advance collection of share capital of co-operative societies.

* 352 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to his answer to Interpellation No. 471, clauses (c) and (d), dated 17th March 1925, regarding the advance collection of share capital of co-operative societies—

(a) whether he will call for definite information in the matter; and

(b) whether it is a fact that such procedure was adopted only in cases where the members were asked to pay the entire share capital all at once as they were suspected not to be solvent enough to pay?

A.—(a) The number of societies in which registration was deferred pending the collection and remission of the full share capital of the original members during the two years ending 31st December 1924 is given below :—

District.	Number of societies.
Cuddapah	4
Madura	5
North Arcot	9